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*Report from Hongkong.*

HONGKONG, CHINA, March 26, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended March 22, 1902.

Seven steamers were inspected, 672 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 909 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. Owing to pressure of other work, it was impossible for me to personally superintend all of the disinfection work, but I believe it was carefully done by the attendants. There were 5 rejections during the week because of fever.

Among the bills of health issued during the week was 1 to the Japanese steamship *Riojun Maru*. As previously reported, this vessel was held in quarantine because of 6 cases of cholera which developed aboard. At the hour of inspection a case of fever was found and the vessel was held by me for eighteen hours until satisfied that it was not of a quarantinable nature.

Careful precautions having been taken by the port physician while the vessel was in quarantine, it was not considered necessary to repeat the disinfection. However, the crew were bathed and all their personal effects disinfected just prior to sailing. The return of communicable diseases show that during the week 11 cases of Asiatic cholera and 10 deaths and 3 cases of smallpox and 3 deaths occurred in this city. One of the cholera cases was a French sailor aboard the French gunboat *Decidee* while that vessel was at the Kowloon drydock. It was at this dock that the cases appeared aboard the Japanese steamship *Riojun Maru*. This has been the only European case in this city thus far, with the exception of 1 case removed from a Canton River steamer March 24.

From reports in the local papers the disease continues very severe in parts of Canton. Information received from the Hon. R. M. McWade, United States consul at Canton, states that the disease appears to be abating somewhat on the Honam (south) side of the river, but that it has broken out and is severe in Fatshaw, outside the walled city. Two more Europeans died there, making a total of 11 deaths since the beginning of the epidemic.

The local papers also report the appearance of the disease in Macao, stating that 7 suspicious cases had developed during the week. The conditions seem favorable for the spread of the disease to other coast cities, because of the failing water supply due to long continued drought and the filthy condition of the cities.

The public water supply of Hongkong is collected in reservoirs located high up in the hills, and in case of rain would furnish an abundant supply of good water for all, thus greatly lessening the chances of a further spread of the disease here.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

*Plague epidemic at Pakhoi.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 26, 1902.

SIR: For the information of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service I have the honor to advise you that the Department is in receipt of a telegram

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dated April 25, 1902, from the consul of the United States at Canton, China, which reads as follows: "Plague epidemic Pakhoi."

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,  
Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

COLOMBIA.

*Report from Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, April 22, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ending April 21, 1902:

Population according to census, not obtainable. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, none. Prevailing diseases, malarial. Deaths from casualties of war, on April 17, 1902, estimated at 40. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good. Owing to the disturbed condition of the country due to the revolution, it is impossible to get any reliable information. However, it can be positively stated that no infectious or contagious diseases exist at this port; the health of the place has been remarkably good for several months.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: April 16, steamship *Hispania*, crew, 22; number of passengers from this port, none; number of passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none; steamship *Mount Vernon*, crew, 20; number of passengers from this port, none; number of passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none. April 20, steamship *Alabama*, crew, 20; number of passengers from this port, none; number of passengers in transit, none; pieces of baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,  
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

COSTA RICA.

*Report from Port Limon—Fruit port.*

PORT LIMON, COSTA RICA, April 24, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended April 23, 1902:

Present officially estimated population, 4,000. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 3. Prevailing diseases, malarial fever and pulmonary consumption. General sanitary condition of this port and